Export of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

4386. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of basmati and non-basmati rice exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, till-date; and

(b) the reasons for permitting export of non-basmati rice during the above period in spite of the fact that price of this item is increasing in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity and value of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice exported during the last three years, and in the current year are as follows :-

Quantity : in Lakh MTs.

Value : in Rs. Crores.

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94	5.27	1061.27	2.40	225.44
1994-95	4.69	857.76	4.23	323.45
1995-96	3.92	851.16	51.20	3701.85
1996-97 (Apr.-Dec., 96)	3.42	794.11	16.17 (Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)	679.00

(b) It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise the food security system. It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of the different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

Export of Coir

4387. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of coir products exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether coir geo-textiles has secured any export order during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to promote export of coir products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantum and value of coir products exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	48276	206.84
1996-97*	41204	187.65

(*) Provisional - April 1996 to February, 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantum and value of coir geo-textiles exported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	474	1.68
1996-97*	406	1.61

(*) Provisional - April 1996 to February, 1997.

(d) The Coir Board, which is a statutory body, has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international markets. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programme with British and German Coir Associations for promoting consumption of Indian coir in these countries. In order to increase the export of coir products, the Board participates in important exhibitions abroad, deputes officials in market development missions, and undertakes publicity programme.

Export of TEA

4388. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries which are importing tea from India;

(b) whether Poland and some other countries propose to step up tea import;

(c) if so, the details of order placed by different countries to import Indian tea;

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the estimated quantum of tea proposed to be exported to those countries during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Indian tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world.